

To: Christie StClair[StClair.Christie@epamail.epa.gov]; EOC Public Information[EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov]; Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 8:43:26 PM
Subject: RE: EOC ACTION: Denver Post, Produce News

Is this okay to send to the reporters?

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

From: Christie StClair [mailto:StClair.Christie@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 2:15 PM
To: EOC Public Information; Press
Subject: EOC ACTION: Denver Post, Produce News

Do you need to review/approve the below? They are cleared by JIC, Area Command, and Unified Command.

Once approved, can go into FAQs.

Christie St. Clair

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From: Blake, Amber [<mailto:amber.blake@durangogov.org>]

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 2:07 PM

To: [Personal Email/Ex. 6](#) [mail.com](#); harrison.Melissa@epa.gov; Harrison, Melissa; StClair, Ch [Personal Email/Ex. 6](#); Sarah Jacobson [Personal Email/Ex. 6](#) [gmail.com](#)

Subject: Re: in email text

These are FINAL and can be released back to the requesters.

Please respond to all as to who is responding to reporters.

THANKS AB

Denver Post

Q.

One thing we are really aching to find out that hasn't been explained in too much detail is what exactly has been done at the Gold King Mine in the last week to help remediate the problem. We've seen the ponds, but is there anything else going on up there?

A.

As water exits the mine pH adjusted, the water flows into the treatment pond system. The treatment ponds provide retention time to allow the pH adjustment to happen, flocculation compounds are added during the process to settle the metals to the bottom of the retention

ponds.

One additional retention pond is being added to the treatment system to allow crews to manage the sludges that have settled out to date. This additional pond will allow the treatment system to maintain efficiency as the crews are managing the existing ponds. A commercial water treatment system will be implemented on site as part of short term actions for water treatment.

Planning is in place for a treatment solution, which includes piping discharge to a lower mine site with a better location for water treatment to continue into the fall. Longer term treatment needs and options are being evaluated.

Produce News:

Q.

How might the incident relate to any crops in Colorado and Northern New Mexico? Can you confirm that no food crops have been impacted?

A.

We are certain that crops are safe for consumption. Unified command recommends that Ag community resumed irrigation. When the plume came through, irrigation ditches that impacted crops were shut down. Now that the river is back to pre-event levels, resuming irrigation is fine.

Q.

What Grows in that region?

A. Hay, corn & small organic farms.